

From: Mary Masters [MMasters@stanfordalumni.org]  
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2007 11:14 PM  
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov  
Subject: [MLPA Comments] CA MLPA Comments

1) Please support the "preferred alternative" developed from the August 2006 meeting. This was a well thought out and balanced proposal that represents significant compromise already. Please do not further weaken what the science says is required.

2) California is leading the way in the U.S. and we must have a strong, effective network of MPA's base-lined by Marine Reserves. In the recent National Geographic it articulated how the establishment of Marine Reserves along the New Zealand coast wasn't popular at first. But, the benefits have proven themselves over the years with a return of abundance and diversity. It also talked about the cod fishery in New Foundland and how trawling for many years destroyed the habitat and reduced the abundance thereby putting fishing communities out of business. We don't want this along the California coast. We need a strong ecosystem approach that allows nature to recover. Currently planned Marine Reserves should not be changed to Marine Conservation Areas. That only weakens the "preferred alternative" and impacts the ability of the ecosystem to recover naturally.

3) Please don't downgrade Ano Nuevo and Cambria State Marine Reserves to SMCA's by allowing hand harvest of kelp in these areas.

4) Please don't reduce the SMCA level from high to medium at Soquel Canyon and Portuguese Ledge State Marine by allowing spot prawn fishing in these areas.

5) The process to date has been very fair, thorough, inclusive, and science based. It has been a great compromise by all stakeholders to get this far. Please approve the "preferred alternative" as defined at the August 2006 meeting.

Sincerely,

Mary H. Masters  
23 Peter Coutts Circle  
Stanford,  
CA 94305